

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-20 COME-00 BIB-01 AF-10

ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 OIC-02 /123 W

-----071833 111629Z /43

P 111426Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9507

UNCLAS GENEVA 07221

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU

SUBJECT: ITU: 1979 WARC: BUTLER'S VIEWS

REF: ANDERSON-SEVERSON TELECON, MAY 8

1. ON MAY 11, ITU DEPUTY DIRECTOR CALLED TELATT TO DISCUSS TIMING AND DURATION OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE.
2. FIRST, BUTLER SAID, HE WAS OPPOSED TO ANY LENGTHENING OF CURRENT TEN-WEEK DURATION OF CONFERENCE.
3. HE IS ALSO OPPOSED TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL MENTIONED BY BAPTISTE, UK, TO US REP PHILLIPS FOR AN EIGHT-WEEK FOLLOW-ON TO WARC IN 1980.
4. HOWEVER, BUTLER STRONGLY REQUESTS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PROPOSAL THAT CONFERENCE BE HELD IN TWO SESSIONS:
 - A. EIGHT-WEEK SESSION SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1979, FOLLOWED BY
 - B. FOUR-WEEK SESSION IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 1980 TO CLEAN UP TEXT AND PRODUCE FINAL ACTS.

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5. BUTLER BELIEVES THAT IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE IN 1977 AND 1978 WARCS, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR 1979 WARC TO CONSIDER ALL ITEMS ON AGENDA AND COME UP WITH FINAL ACTS IN TEN-WEEK PERIOD ALLOTTED. HE IS FEARFUL THAT IN LAST-MINUTE RUSH TO CONCLUDE, SERIOUS MISTAKES OR MISALIGNMENTS WILL OCCUR WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE ACCEPTANCE

OF FINAL ACTS. TO PRECLUDE THIS, HE FEELS THAT A THREE TO FOUR-MONTH ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE IS NECESSARY DURING WHICH ADMINISTRATION COULD REVIEW TEXTS AND PROPOSE CORRECTIONS AS NECESSARY, WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY RESUMED SESSION OF CONFERENCE. HE ADDED THAT RESUMED SESSION WOULD NOT BE EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS OR REOPEN MATTERS ALREADY AGREED UPON BY FIRST SESSION - MERELY TO CLEAN UP TEXT AND ALSO TREAT MATTERS WHICH ORIGINAL, EIGHT-WEEK SESSION DID NOT CONSIDER BECAUSE OF TIME ELEMENT. HE BELIEVES INITIAL EIGHT-WEEK SESSION WOULD MOST LIKELY NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER ITEMS OTHER THAN ARTICLE 5 AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION PROCEDURES.

6. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT U.S. COUNCIL REP PHILLIPS BE BRIEFED ON U.S. POSITION ON BUTLER'S PROPOSAL SO THAT SHE CAN DISCUSS IT WITH HIM AT MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN HIS OFFICE SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 14. SORENSON

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